

# The Foggy Bottom News

Vol. 11, No. 10

THE VOICE OF FOGGY BOTTOM

July, 1967

## SCHOENEMAN, MARTIN ELECTED TO HEAD '67-'68 FBA

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

My Fellow Bottoms:

Looking back on our term in office, in all modesty, we must conclude that it has been a year of incredible achievement. As my successor, Mr. Charles Schoeneman, and others must realize, there is no training for this office; so we think we owe our success to our custom, while shaving in the morning, of gazing earnestly into the mirror and saying, "We're going to make it. We are going to make it!" This prayer has been answered at last.

A dramatic new disorganization was introduced in September and disseminated widely in the popular press. Its underlying principle was to get as many people to do as much of our work as possible. This innovation is now widely used as a model by the Federal and other governments.

The Executive Board yielded fearlessly to us on every occasion, thereby obviating the usual necessity of a President's acting without authority. Meeting every two days to discuss the new By-laws which were passed this year, the Board's attendance was 100% in all but the first meeting, probably because we introduced the practice of anonymous phone calls in lieu of the other kind, which in the past have been found totally ineffective.

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### SEPTEMBER BLOCK PARTY FOR THE BOTTOM

A block party has tentatively been planned for September in FB. Watch for details to appear, either in a special flyer of the September News.

On Monday evening, June 26, the FBA elected Charles W. Schoeneman, an attorney who lives at the Watergate, as its president for 1967-68. Fortunately for the Association, Alling Brown had not yet committed to paper his illuminating summary of the year past, (see this page, left-hand column) and Mr. Schoeneman was not driven to reconsider the rashness of seeking the FBA presidency. We couldn't be happier about the circumstances which give us this opportunity to welcome Charles Schoeneman as our new "leader." (See below for some of the new president's plans for the coming year, expressed when he spoke to the association and with members, on the 26th.)

Rev. Richard Martin of St. Paul's, this year's Program and Special Events Chairman, is the new FBA Vice-President; Ellie Becker and Liz Davis have been re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The new Executive Board includes long time FB residents Alling Brown, Walter Boardman, Harriet Gruger, William Simon and Alex Wiskup.

At the meeting, membership dues were voted upon and altered. Three dollars is still the amount due, but there are no longer any household memberships; i.e., each person in a household (of an owner or a renter) must pay dues individually to become a member. All members except associate members (persons who live outside of Foggy Bottom but wish to belong to the FBA) will have voting privileges.

### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

I am flattered by the honor you have shown me. At this time I feel called upon to make two general observations respecting the Association.

First, the present division between those of you who are homeowners in the community and

(Continued on Insert)



**FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**EXECUTIVE BOARD

President . . . . . Alling C. Brown  
 Vice President . . . . . Rev. F. Everett Abbott  
 Secretary . . . . . Eleanor Becker  
 Treasurer . . . . . Elizabeth Davis  
 Directors . . . . . Harriet Gruger  
    William L. Simon, Alexander E. Wiskup

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

District Affairs . . . . . Linda Terry  
 Membership . . . . . Rev. F. Everett Abbott  
    Nancy Young  
 Information . . . . . Eleanor Becker  
 Program & Special Events . . Rev. Richard C. Martin

Inquiries concerning the Association may be directed to any of the above.

**FB News**

Editor . . . . . Jan Edelstein (333-4164)  
 Photographer . . . . . Charles Lanman

**RECREATION EVENINGS FOR ADULTS**

How many people in Foggy Bottom are unaware of the services offered by the Francis Recreation Center, 24th and N streets N.W.? Operated for children during the day, the center offers programs for adults in the evenings. Attractions include square dancing, archery, sewing, card playing, and ceramics. Adult hours are 7 p.m. through 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call Director Henry de Graffied, or his assistant, Mrs. Bertha H. Taylor, at FE 3-5454.

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**SAGA OF THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS**

Whew! We made it... The last issue of the News has been put to bed. There were times during the year when the future of the newspaper was in grave danger; editorially because there sometimes was not enough copy (notice I didn't say "news"—there is always plenty of that); and financially, which was unavoidable to some extent.

Thanks to several people we never faltered. Charlie Lanman (and his Polaroid and his Profiles) was invaluable; Ellie Becker's contributions have been noted throughout the year. And to those of you who did submit news or articles or Letters to the Editor, we are most grateful.

Despite the problems, it's been more than enjoyable working with the News this year, and I look forward to some participation in the FBN next year.



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Bernard A. Gray



## Report - from Page 1

Working on our District Affairs Committee became as popular as it had been important. During the year we enlisted 89 new workers and had 87 resignations, with a net gain of about 5 over last year's 1. The normal duration of employment in this fast-moving area of activity was about 3 days, a numerical increase of 2 over last year's average of 1 week. Ned Minor and Linda Terry did splendid jobs, Ned resigning only four times and Linda three.\*

The Membership Committee was placed under the uniquely combined leadership of the local Abbott and a Young maiden. This attracted a curious and diverse group of new members from every corner of Foggy Bottom, including our new suburb, the Watergate. Nancy and Father Abbott succeeded in raising membership from 9 to 11, a pretty good 22% in relation to the world's birth rate increase in the same period.\*

It was a banner year for Program and Special Events. Led by Father Dick Martin, the Committee arranged for intensely stimulating speakers on everything from "What To Do About Ants in Your Garden, and Elsewhere" to "Separate Bedrooms: A Growing Problem in Foggy Bottom." Highlighted Special Events included a psychedelic Festival of the Arts, the annual Mardi Gras experiment, and a hauntingly beautiful House and Garden Tour, all of which contributed to Liz Davis' Treasury in embarrassing amounts.

The last of our four Committees - Information - became the first in many ways. Turnover in Foggy Bottom News business managers was light this year: three and one-third. Ellie Becker disobeyed strict Presidential orders on numerous matters, including aggrandizing for herself more than one job, such as Secretary, Committee Chairman, Comptroller of the News, and others. Of course we had to cut off her writing hand as punishment; in retrospect, though, this does seem a little harsh, inasmuch as Ellie did serve as Acting President much of the time while we were off on international tours, summit conferences, etc.

Special mention, indeed first prize, should be made of Jan Edelstein, the News' Editor-in-Chief and Charles Lanman, her assistant. Jan came over to us from the New York Times, which she had managed since her freshman year at Smith. Charlie, who was obtained from the interior of government, where there are no lights, flashed bulbs almost compulsively all year.

The result was a Life-like journal with a difference, i.e., penetrating and generally literate. Except for a few scabrous articles, the News was sued rarely. Unlike difficulties encountered by other Presidents, we did not have any trouble controlling the press, which probably accounts, along with the wearing of our flying suit and dark glasses, for the blind allegiance of our constituency.

We would like to deliver ourselves of the year's many excitements - the battle for control of 25th Street; the Great Channel House Debates and the annual fight to get it to open two more bars for the convenience of the neighborhood; the incarceration of visiting diplomats (who proved that it isn't really always necessary to call Carl) for expressing their sincere but erroneous beliefs at meetings; the development of interesting plans for blowing up the District Building, Capitol Hill and the State Department; the spirited topping out of the new West End Library after five years of construction (a record for a public building) by a group of residents; the unbelievable cooperation of GW in solving traffic and parking problems.

But we would not like to leave our new President, Mr. Schoeneman, the impression that there is nothing left for his people to do, deservedly proud as we are of our accomplishments. Indeed, much of the above probably could serve as an outline of what will have to be undone or done again next year. Taxes will continue to rise, and the job of paving over every square foot of Foggy Bottom with road is still incomplete.

Further, with respect to Mr. Schoeneman, who successfully resisted every tactic on our part to get reelected for another term, we wish him and his ruling circle well. Flushed with charity, we devoutly hope that our other followers - happily too numerous to list here - will become his followers. We thank all of them for their participation and work during our regime, and for helping to prove our theory that Presidents aren't really as vital as everyone thinks.

Alling C. Brown  
Ex-President

July 1, 1967

\* Under the new Public Information By-law, all figures in this report are open to verification at the Association's Statistical Office, unless privileged through custom or usage.



## President's Remarks - from Page 1

those of us who occupy what are commonly referred to as the "high rises" need not be an irretrievable one. I do not view the two groups as "factions." There is a common interest which should prevail in making this an active, efficient and happy organization. All persons should and will continue to feel welcome at associations meetings as members and participants in FBA programs.

My second observation concerns the association and its relation to the internal community of Foggy Bottom on one hand, and to the city of Washington and its government on the other. Because the citizens' association stands midway between the citizen and the city, I view its responsibility as twofold: toward the inhabitants — owners and residents who live here — and toward the city, its government and other institutions. During the coming year, I will seek — as the past officers have done with real success — to structure the Foggy Bottom Association in terms of both commitments, focusing on specific city-related problems and seeking to make life within Foggy Bottom as constructive, safe and above all, as pleasant as possible.

Let me outline some of the principal areas of attention of which I feel require a commitment of my time and all of our efforts in the coming year:

## Meetings

It will be my effort to keep meetings as **brief**, to the point and as **interesting** as possible. In the interest of **brevity**, I intend to arrive at some arrangement whereby proposals for future action will be cleared, in advance of debate at a meeting, through either the Executive Board or a special clearing committee. I think that such a clearing procedure will speed our meetings considerably, enabling meeting participants to address themselves to the substance and merits of the various proposals, having given prior thought and attention to proposals in preparation for the discussions. Concerning my goal of keeping meetings interesting I intend, through the Program Chairman, to insure that we have ten particularly pertinent topics and ten particularly good speakers; I believe such programs will both encourage attendance and attract new members to the association.

## Membership:

Membership is tied, not only to the attraction of the programs, but particularly closely to the finances of the association. Through the

Membership Committee, I will seek to make sure that the interesting nature of the programs pays the expected dividends in terms of new members and paid-up memberships.

## Finances

I think that we all agree that a sound and healthy treasury is necessary to the day-to-day operations of the association and to enable us to maintain a "rainy day" or special project reserve. It seems to me that the membership dues are presently at an adequate level (see page 1, right-hand column for the dues structure voted at the meeting) to keep our finances healthy, **provided we have the necessary memberships.** The only additional suggestion I might have regarding finances would be the establishment of business memberships for members of the business community operating in the Foggy Bottom area. I will give this matter some thought and consideration over the summer and welcome your suggestions for action in the fall.

## Relationships with Other Organizations

I believe the Foggy Bottom Association, by reason of some very current events affecting this section of Washington, must now establish continuing relationships with the Federal government, its agencies and departments with interests in this community (e.g., the State Department) and with the private institutions in this area.

It is similarly necessary that we maintain and indeed strengthen our ties to the other civic associations in Washington, through existing lines of communication and by establishing new ones. It would be my intention to join, where appropriate, with other organizations to achieve greater political effect in situations where the overall interests of the area involved are parallel, if not coincident.

I hope that my remarks will encourage you to spend some time this summer thinking of ways that some of these goals—which I trust we all share—may best be achieved. Before the summer ends, I will call some of you to serve on the various committees which I will wish to establish to effectuate these ideas. I hope, incidentally, that by trimming some of the committees and orienting them around ideas and current problems rather than around more general ones, we can give new direction to our mutual efforts and conserve everyone's time—which I believe is our most important commodity. Working together, we ought to make the 1967-68 year the best one the association has had. Thank you very much.



## IT'S THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN

There's plenty to keep you amused while you relax and cool off in a big easy chair on that luscious gold carpet. Read the latest issue of Paris Match, U.S. Camera, the New Statesman, the New York Times, or one of the many other magazines the library subscribes to. Or try the listening room, where you can play one of the music, poetry or drama records in the library's collection. Or just stroll around the light, open first floor and enjoy the Jack Perlmutter prints now on display.

Householders! Apartment dwellers! When your air conditioning breaks down this summer, try the air conditioning at Foggy Bottom's branch library, 24th and L streets. Opened early this year, the West End Branch is the City's only air-conditioned library, and that's reason enough to make it a regular stopping place these days.

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(See local newspapers for additions to this list.)

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For the more serious user, there are now over 32,000 books in the West End Branch Collection, about two-thirds classified as adult, and the remainder, juvenile. A small foreign language collection, on loan from the Central Library, is changed every six months. A financial section includes Standard and Poor's Corporation Records and similar references, with more to be added later.

### LIBRARY "EXTRAS"

As a community center the library offers a variety of attractions, from a coin-operated copying machine to a group meeting room seating 65, available to local organizations. And don't forget that air conditioning.

The West End Branch is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information about its services, call 629-4039.

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## HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR A SUCCESS

The rains came—but not until 200 people had thoroughly enjoyed the 1967 Foggy Bottom House and Garden Tour on Sunday, June 18. The highly successful Tour realized more than \$190.

Featured on this year's Tour were nine of FBs most charming homes and—for the first time—a lovely Watergate apartment. Lending their homes for the occasion were Rev. and Mrs. F. Everett Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Alexander, Miss C.B. Casper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gillespie, Mrs. Gladys Gilliam, Miss Morella Hansen, Miss Elizabeth Harter, Miss Marjorie Milbourn, Mrs. Elsa Swisher and Miss Elizabeth Wharton.

Visitors found their way to the Tour homes by following the multicolored balloons displayed

outside. Inside, they found a variety of unusual furnishings—antiques from Europe and America, carved teak from the Orient, ancient Chinese and Japanese scrolls, Venetian glass mirrors, rugs from Persia and Morocco and South America, primitive Haitian art, Mayan sculpture, African carvings, contemporary art (including an oil painting of Hannah Lee Washington, grand-niece of our first president). After the walking and the looking were over, refreshments were served at St. Mary's Episcopal church, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

It was a great day for Foggy Bottom and it was made possible by the work of many people, including Virginia Mulroy, Gladys Gilliam, Maggie Litwin, Olga Corey, Jerry Oaks, Paul Kennedy, Mrs. A.E. Thompkins, Carole Whitcomb, Nancy Young and the many people who volunteered to "sit" at the homes being displayed.

## SUMMER SEASON AT THEATRE LOBBY

Ibsen's "A Doll's House" is currently being performed at the Theatre Lobby, 17 St. Matthew's Court, N.W. The Ibsen play was preceded by T.S. Elliot's "The Cocktail Party", which opened the company's 18th summer season. The final production of the summer will be Noel Coward's "Hay Fever", which will open in August.

Reservations may be made by calling the box office at EX 3-5818.

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